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# Official Title: Lead Physical Scientist/Environmental Engineer Organizational Title: Underground Storage Tank Program Team Leader GS-1301-14

#### INTRODUCTION:

Serves as Team Leader of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Team, working directly under the Supervisor of the Chief of the RCRA Compliance Branch (RCB). Work is evaluated in the basis of effectiveness and efficiency in accomplishing Regional program goals and objectives. The incumbent serves as a key advisor to top management regarding all UST compliance and enforcement National and Regional matters. The team ensures that statutory and regulatory requirements are met, that program and participant oversight is exercised, and that technical and administrative guidance is developed and furnished to participants. The team coordinates and interfaces with counterparts in other, related, programs, and the incumbent fosters the integration of team activities with overall regional environmental protection and public health goals.

#### **MAJOR DUTIES:**

The Team Leader is responsible for protecting public health, welfare and the environment through comprehensive implementation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)/Underground Storage Tank (UST) program and regulations. Serves as a as a national UST enforcement expert by administering Region II's underground storage tank compliance and enforcement program pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The Team Leader plans, directs and coordinates the following programs, program segment(s) and major projects:

Provides assistance, guidance, training to state UST programs; negotiates UST and LUST grants and monitors state performance; participates in development of joint state/EPA strategic plans. Administers the UST/LUST program to ensure compliance with UST program requirements. Focuses inspection and enforcement resources to high priority groundwater areas, as applicable, and supports of national, regional, and state initiatives.

Addresses state and municipal, or professional groups, and meetings called by members of Congress for their constituents and private organizations, for the purpose of disseminating information and creating interest in the nature and effects of groundwater contamination from leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) that pose a threat to groundwater quality and the health of persons. Explains Federal responsibilities and policies under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Maintains continuing liaison and relationships with officials of the State in order to facilitate their cooperation and participation in the underground storage tank (UST) grants program to target high priority groundwater areas. Maintains contact with key officials and top engineering and scientific personnel representing EPA and other Federal agencies in an effort to obtain maximum coordination of the Agency's groundwater related programs such as RCRA and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and related programs of

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other agencies, to obtain all viewpoints regarding proposed programs and projects, and to assure concerted action by all parties involved. The large universe of USTs necessitates coordination with other Federal, state and local authorities to insepct and regulate those USTs that can endanger groundwater quality. Incumbent also utilizes outreach to the regulated community and compliance assistance to help facilities comply with requirements.

Administers and is responsible for resolving complex program and project issues which require expertise in USTs and the development of improved/novel multimedia approaches to groundwater protection. The incumbent exercises an unusual degree of independent judgment in resolving controversial matters.

Confers with key officials in EPA Region 2 and at EPA Headquarters to develop solutions to complex project issues acceptable to all parties and interests involved. Provides advice and guidance to engineers, scientists, and management officials within and outside the EPA covering a broad range of environmental issues and activities. Coordinates project activities with various EPA offices (within Region 2 and at Headquarters), State, local, and other Federal agencies, scientific and academic communities, environmental groups, and the public; meets regularly with these entities and with senior management within the EPA Region to promote and defend EPA policy and strategies, present data, and initiate, develop, and coordinate joint activities; responds to inquiries/complaints.

Serves as EPA's representative on and/or chairs interagency workgroups and task forces to ensure that the policies developed reflect the EPA's needs and priorities. Coordinates interagency planning studies; negotiates workplans, which is often a very sensitive and complex process requiring the consensus of Federal, State and local agencies, the scientific, academic, and business communities, civic and environmental groups, and the general public.

Develops, fosters, and maintains cooperative relations with the entities listed above; provides information regarding regulatory decisions/activities and their import. Utilizes expertise in USTs and groundwater protection to make presentations on the UST program, varying the level of technical detail according to the nature of the audience. Represents EPA at scientific and technical conferences and at public meetings.

The incumbent uses expertise in Congressional and Administration priorities and intent, combined with a complete understanding of the RCRA UST program to formulate a Regional enforcement strategy. The work requires the exercise of discretion and independent judgment in developing these highly visible products and in resolving complex issues that arise during the course of work. The incumbent is directly responsible for working and negotiating with a variety of stakeholders during the development of these products, including: State administrators, executive directors of organizations representing utilities, environmental groups, States, with other federal officials, and the public.

Represent EPA Region 2 at annual national Underground Storage Tanks conference and all National and Regional meetings, conferences, committees, workgroups, etc. related to UST

Enforcement. Represents EPA as a national expert at State, Regional, National and International meetings, conferences, public hearings, and symposiums, and presents EPA's position and policies on various issues, including: implementation and enforcement of the Energy Policy Act (EpAct) and UST Regulations and guidance; National compliance profiles regarding the regulations; and status of state adoption of UST regulations.

Plans, directs, and coordinates all Regional UST enforcement activities, including, compliance assistance. Develops Regional UST Enforcement policies, strategies, and guidance, to be used by the Regional office in direct implementation of the UST Enforcement program on Indian Lands, and to be applied to primacy States in conducting State enforcement program oversight.

Formulates plans and procedures to implement the Regional UST enforcement and compliance assistance program. Develops strategies for identifying and ranking UST enforcement candidates throughout the Region. Establishes procedures for EPA enforcement actions in primacy States where the State has failed to take timely and appropriate enforcement action.

Reviews and evaluates primacy States' UST enforcement programs, State/EPA enforcement agreements, State enforcement actions and procedures to determine the quality and effectiveness if their enforcement programs, and to ensure that State programs are consistent with EPA's National and Regional UST Enforcement Programs.

Provides training to Federal and State managers, other EPA staff, UST system operators and the general public on the development and implementation of effective UST compliance techniques.

Initiates enforcement actions against violators of UST program requirements in Region 2 (both Direct Implementation and Primacy States). Provides training for new enforcement staff, prepares and reviews all EPA UST enforcement actions to ensure accuracy and consistency with the Regional enforcement program.

Works closely with Regional Counsel and the Regional Criminal Investigator to develop administrative, civil and criminal cases, and carries them through to resolution. Represents EPA as program expert in these proceedings.

Reviews and develops comments on proposed Federal and State regulations, policies and guidance documents. Participates in National enforcement workgroups.

Develops Regional UST compliance/enforcement tracking systems to ensure efficient implementation of the Regional program. Tracks actions to conclusion. Initiates follow-up action when obligations are not met.

Develops standard regional enforcement documents for all types of administrative enforcement actions.

Advises supervisor, managers, and executives in sensitive enforcement cases, primacy State

enforcement program deficiencies, the effect of proposed legislation, new or proposed program requirements, new regulations and standards, etc.

Coordinates UST enforcement activities between UST Team, Regional Counsel, PAD, Headquarters, and States.

Coordinates and performs UST Enforcement field inspection program to determine compliance status and/ or uncover possible criminal activity. Investigates LUST emergencies.

Assures that State and Federal Enforcement actions are reported ICIS and DOCKET. Responsible for meeting commitments for enforcement actions and NC reductions.

Resolves the most complex program and project issues which require technical expertise in UST policies and procedures. The work requires careful planning to define the boundaries of the program based on existing statutory authorities and technological advances. This is especially true for new and emerging roles, like EpAct, in which it is necessary to interpret the new regulations and guidance and provide detailed specific assistance to the participants (in this case, principally state personnel) under extremely tight constraints.

Oversees and supports state UST and LUST programs. Provides assistance to states in support of their delegated responsibilities; negotiates program grants, ensures that workplan commitments are met; conducts formal evaluations of state programs, provides comprehensive tracking of State Program Approval (SPA) packages to ensure that approvable packages are developed and submitted within the statuary deadlines; works with states and special interest groups to promote funding for increased state capacity.

Develops, negotiates, and tracks the UST elements of State PPA's, as applicable. Develops and tracks special initiatives (eg. Island Eco Regions Priorities).

Provides technical assistance and outreach on UST/LUST issues as well as to ORC and DOJ.

The Team Leader determines overall program goals for the activities under his or her direction and develops both short and long range workplans. The planning process encompasses several ongoing cycles of management activity which intertwine and run parallel in time; the regional program planning/budget cycle and the Branch and Division planning cycle. The Team Leader makes decisions across the Team for productivity improvements, accountability, and the effectiveness of individual performance. The incumbent uses initiative and judgment to determine appropriate programmatic priorities, makes decisions affecting the direction of Team program activities, and determines whether overall goals and objectives are being met. Assures environmental justice and pollution prevention objectives are considered in the program planning process. The incumbent utilizes a variety of coordinating, coaching, facilitating, consensus-building and planning techniques to include:

- 1. Ensure that the organization's strategic plan, mission, vision and values are communicated to the team and integrated into the team's strategies, goals, objectives, work plans and work products and services.
- 2. Articulate and communicate to the team the assignment, project, problem to be solved, actionable events, milestones, and/or program issues under review, and deadlines and time frames for completion.
- 3. Coach the team in the selection and application of appropriate problem solving methods and techniques, provide advice on work methods, practices and procedures, and assist the team and/or individual members in identifying the parameters of a viable solution.
- 4. Lead the team in: identifying, distributing and balancing workload and tasks among employees in accordance with established work flow, skill level and/or occupational specialization; making adjustments to accomplish the workload in accordance with established priorities to ensure timely accomplishment of assigned team tasks; and ensuring that each employee has an integral role in developing the final team product.
- 5. Train or arrange for the training of team members in methods and techniques of team building and working in teams to accomplish tasks or projects, and provide or arrange for specific administrative or technical training necessary for accomplishment of individual and team tasks.
- 6. Monitor and report on the status and progress of work, checking on work in progress and reviewing completed work to see that the supervisor=s instructions on work priorities, methods, deadlines and quality have been met.
- 7. Serve as coach, facilitator and/or negotiator in coordinating team initiatives and in consensus building activities among team members.
- 8. Maintain program and administrative reference materials, project files and relevant background documents and make available policies, procedures and written instructions from the supervisor; maintain current knowledge to answer questions from team members on procedures, policies, directives, etc.
- 9. Prepare reports and maintain records of work accomplishments and administrative information, as required, and coordinate the preparation, presentation and communication of work-related information to the supervisor.
- 10. Represent the team in dealings with the supervisor or manager for the purpose of obtaining resources (e.g., computer hardware and software, use of overtime or compensatory time), and securing needed information or decisions from the supervisor on major work problems and issues that arise.

- 11. Report to the supervisor periodically on team and individual work accomplishments, problems, progress in mastering tasks and work processes, and individual and team training needs.
- 12. Represent the team consensus and convey the team's findings and recommendations in meetings and dealings with other team leaders, program officials, the public and other customers on issues related to or that have an impact on the team's objectives, work products and/or tasks.
- 13. Estimate and report to the team on progress in meeting established milestones and deadlines for completion of assignments, projects and tasks, and ensure that all team members are aware of and participate in planning for achievement of team goals and objectives.
- 14. Research, learn and apply a wide range of qualitative and/or quantitative methods to identify, assess, analyze and improve team effectiveness, efficiency and work products.
- 15. Lead the team in assessing its strengths and weaknesses and provide leadership to the team in exploring alternatives and determining what improvements can be made (e.g., in work methods, processes and procedures).

Supports management integrity as a top priority in the Team and ensures that it is integrated into daily work. Develops, assesses, and strengthens management control systems to safeguard programs and achieve mission results. Takes timely corrective actions on all identified weaknesses. Ensures prompt follow-up and resolution of audit findings. Supports a full disclosure policy for the organization that provides early detection of emerging issues. Keeps top levels of management fully apprized of effectiveness of management integrity systems.

Manages extramural resources, both procurement (contracts) and assistance (grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements) properly and in compliance with regulatory requirements and EPA policies and procedures. Develops appropriate extramural resources and management competencies in staff.

Other duties as assigned.

FACTOR 1. Knowledge Required by the Position-Level 1-8-1550 Points

Mastery of the concepts, principles and practices of life science, environmental science, or environmental engineering in general and groundwater protection and management specifically to enable the incumbent to serve as a technical and programmatic authority for the prevention of leaks or spills of petroleum products to ensure a safe drinking water supply by maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of groundwater inputs into an aquifer. Expertise in multimedia aquifer protection principles and practices sufficient to develop new approaches and modify/extend existing techniques in order to assess the stresses/threats to which it is subjected and develop/evaluate alternative strategies to address those threats.

Extensive knowledge of all legislation dealing with the control and abatement of pollution affecting Groundwater including the Safe Drinking Water Act and RCRA. Expertise regarding EpAct and other Federal UST and LUST regulations, policy, and guidance. Familiarity with State regulations, policies, and bureaucratic structures.

Ability to identify issues needing study, technical review, or policy review. Ability to analyze and communicate complex programmatic/technical matters to policy makers, managers, technical staff, the regulated community, and the general public.

# FACTOR 2 - Supervisory Controls-Level 2-5-650 Points

The incumbent functions with complete independence and receives only administrative and policy direction from the Branch Chief. Receives assignments in terms of broadly defined missions/functions, general policy directives, and budget constraints. Responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing activities, making determinations regarding allocation of available resources and resolving conflicts that arise. Informs the Branch Chief of major program issues and controversial decisions, but technical judgments and recommendations are generally accepted as authoritative even in situations where final approval depends upon formal action of senior management. Completed work is reviewed only for adherence to broad Agency policies and fulfillment of program objectives.

#### FACTOR 3 - Guidelines-Level 3-5-650 Points

Guidelines include federal and state laws, EPA and state regulations, and broad and general policy statements in groundwater protection. Using these parameters, the incumbent exercises considerable judgment and ingenuity in interpreting and in developing approaches preventing leaks from USTs.

# FACTOR 4 - Complexity-Level 4-5-325 Points

Assignment involves a full range of technical and planning activities to assure USTs are in compliance with Agency's criteria and to reexamine/extend/modify those criteria when required. Difficult technical evaluations/negotiations requiring consideration of a multiplicity of scientific, technical, socioeconomic, and political demands are common. Employee renders initial Regional decisions concerning the technical adequacy and appropriateness of aquifer protection efforts. Develops precedent-setting alternatives strategies to address complex problems/issues requiring versatility and innovation. Solutions must take into account the diverse and often conflicting operating needs of the various constituencies and the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed actions. Considerable scientific/engineering expertise, coupled with judgment and creativity, are required to develop and extend techniques for problem solving.

# FACTOR 5 - Scope and Effect Level 5-5, 325 Points

The incumbent's work involves defining unprecedented issues and unknown conditions as well

as providing expertise and advice on program planning and policy-making functions concerning UST compliance and enforcement. The work results affect the Region's public health, welfare and the environment through comprehensive implementation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)/Underground Storage Tank (UST) program and regulations. The work results also affect the work of other engineering and scientific experts and high-level officials internal and external to the agency.

#### FACTOR 6 - Personal Contacts-Level 6-4-110 Points

Personal contacts are high ranking officials of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and other outside agencies, including key officials, scientists, engineers and attorneys of state and local agencies, municipal governments, environmental groups, universities, Congressional representatives, and public interest groups. Contacts also include management and technical staff of the DEPP, ERRD, DESA, CEPD, ORC, senior regional management and EPA Headquarters – principally OUST and OECA.

# FACTOR 7 - Purpose of Contacts-Level 7-3-120 Points

Contacts are undertaken to 1) articulate and defend the Agency's policies with regard to UST compliance; 2) enlist support from diverse parties; 3) build consensus on interagency workgroups; 4) persuade parties with significantly conflicting interests of the need to comply with technical guidelines; 5) negotiate commitments; 6) provide direction to Team members; 7) assure the technical sufficiency decisions; 8) assess the adequacy of the planning activities of various entities; 9) persuade senior management of the merits of recommendations; 10) seek allocation of necessary resources; and 11) exchange information. Significant tact and diplomacy is required in dealing with a wide range of parties external to the Agency, each of which has a large stake in the outcome of this high profile project.

FACTOR 8 - Physical Demands-Level 8-1-5 Points

Work is sedentary in nature.

FACTOR 9 - Work Environment-Level 9-1-5 Points

Work is performed primarily in an office environment, although there is some travel to federal, state and municipal offices.

TOTAL POINTS: 3740 3605-4050 = GS-14

# **EPA Extramural Resources Management Duties Checklist**

**Employee Information:** 

This checklist may be used to identify duties in managing contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements. It is a tool for identifying duties to be added to osition descriptions for positions requiring 25% or more of time on any combination of extramural resources management duties. This checklist may be used as an amendment to osition descriptions for positions requiring less than 25% of time on these duties. If only one or two parts of this checklist apply, please show 0" as the percentage of time for the emaining parts.

Percentage of Time Spent on Extramural Resources Management

Name:	Dennis McChesney		This position has no ex-	ramural resou	rces management
Position Number:	5973φ	1	Total extramural resour	rces managem	ent duties occupy less than 25%
Title: Series/Grade:	Team Leader GS/0028/14		Total extramural resout time. These duties are description.	ces managem ndicated belov	ent duties occupy 25% to 50% of w and described in the position
Organization:	DECA/RCRA/CS		Total extramural resour of time. These duties ar description.	ces managem e indicated be	ent duties occupy more than 50% low and described in the position
When this checklis	st is used as an amendment to a	position descript	on, the following signatures	are required:	
Supervisor•s Signa	ature:	100	New		Date /// 5/08
Personnel Speciali Signature:	ist <sub>*</sub> s			Date	
art 1. Contracts Ma Pre-award	anagement Duties: (check all tha	t apply) Post-award			Close -out
₩ Plans pro	curements	Prepares o	lelivery orders		Writes reports on contractor performance, costs, and tasks

	Pre-award			Post-awaru	*		QIOSC -OUL
1	Plans procurements			Prepares delivery orders			Writes reports on contractor performance, costs, and tasks
	Estimates costs	27.56		Reviews contractor work plans	5年7月 20年2	3	performed
/	Obtains funding commitments		* 3	Reviews contractor progress reports			Reconciles payments with work performance
	Prepares procurement requests			Monitors government-furnished property	(* \$ 2 1 (*)		Closes out payments
	Writes statements of work			Monitors cost, management, and overall technical performance of contract after award			Performs cost accounting
M	Reviews statements of work		y 14	Monitors management and performance of delivery orders/work assignments after award		,	Provides assistance to contracting officer in settling claims
	Processes unsolicited proposals			Defines scope of work for work assignments	25/ca		Other (list)
¥	Responds to pre-award inquiries		1	Approves payment requests or ACH drawdowns			
1	Participates in pre-award conferences			Manages cost-reimbursement contracts			
	Conducts technical evaluation			Reviews invoices			Barcantons of Time Spont on

	Other (list)			Other (list) OVERSEE STAFF  COR			7 %		
	Grants/Cooperative Agreement Duti	ies: (	check a	II that apply) Pre-application/Application - cont∗d		P	re-application/Application - cont		
_	Pre-application/Application			Pre-application/Application - contest	72	· .			
	Prepares solicitation for proposals	The desired		Provides administrative information to applicants			Conducts site visits to evaluate program capability		
	Identifies potential grantees for areas of program emphasis			Determines appropriateness of applicants work plan/activities/ budget			Serves as resource to Selection Panel		
1				and compliance with regulations and guidelines and negotiates changes with applicant			Informs applicants of funding decisions		
1	Makes initial determinations (whether project is procurement		/	Assists applicant in resolving Issues in application			Other (list)		
	or assistance, whether agency has legal authority, whether applicant is eligible, whether funding is available, etc.)	For cooperative agreement, determ		For cooperative agreement, determines substantial Federal involvement and develops a condition for agreement		Award	ard		
				Negotiates level of funding			Prepares funding package, including Decision Memorandum		
arc	I - cont∗d		Proje	ct Management/Administration-cont-d		Close	out		
1	Obtains concurrences/approvals			Approves payment requests or ACH drawdowns			Certifies deliverables were satisfactory and timely		
				Reviews requests for modifications, additional funding, etc. and makes recommendations to Grants Management Office					
	Reviews/concurs in completed document		1	Negotiates amendments			Provides assistance to recipients and Grants Management Office to ensure timely close-out		
	Establishes project file			Reviews Cost/Price/Analysis for recipient contracts/change orders (Superfund only)			Reconciles payment with work performed		
	Other (list)  OUERSIGHT OF STAFF AG			When necessary, recommends termination of the agreement		1	Notifies recipient of close-out requirements		
	ot Management/Administration			Resolves with Grants Management Office administrative and financial issues		/	Obtains legal assistance, if necessary, to resolve incomplete close-out		
	Monitors recipient activities and progress		1.	Conducts periodic reviews to ensure compliance with agreement			If project is audited, responds to issues and ensures recipie complies with audit recommendations		
	Reviews reports and deliverables and notifies recipient of comments			Other (list)  OVERSEES STAFF		/	Other (list)  OVERSEES STATE  PO'S.		
1	Provides technical assistance to recipients		/	Po's.			(continued on reverse		

Participates in decisions/action	ns
to ensure successful project	
completion and in decisions to	)
Impose sanctions	



art 3. Interagency Agreements Duties: (check all that apply)

Project Management/Administration

	teragency Agreements Duties: (cl eement:	ieck a	Project	Management/Administration	. (	Close-ou	t ·
	Plans and negotiates work effort		1	Reviews progress reports/financial reports			Reviews final report
	Estimates costs		J.W		1		
1	Obtains funding commitments			Monitors cost management and overall technical performance			Decides on disbursement of equipment
7	Prepares commitment notice			.\ .			
	Writes or reviews scope of work		,	Participates in decisions about project modification/termination			Reconciles payments with work performed
/	Responds to pre-agreement inquiries						
/	Participates in pre-agreement conferences			Conducts periodic review of Superfund State Contracts payment receipts (Superfund Only)			Reviews Superfund State Contracts to ensure full reimbursement (Superfund Only)
	Coordinates with appropriate			Inspects and accepts deliverables		. 7. 3.	Certifies deliverables
/	staff in developing Independent Government Cost Estimates (IGEs)			Other (list)  OVERSEES STAFF			Resolves close-out issues with Grants Management Office/other agency
	Negotiates and ensures execution of Superfund State		, 8 -	OVERSEES STAFF			Other (list) ONERSEES STAFF POS
	Contracts (Superfund Only)					Percen Interag	tage of Time Spent on ency Agreements Management:
	Performs technical evaluation of work plan and budget		- 1				5 %
	Prepares funding package and obtains necessary concurrences						
	Other (list)						